

# The Tougaloo Gitty Gritty

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## Stokely Carmichael Speaks At Tougaloo - Lenora Brewer

After being introduced, the 26 year old Howard University graduate approached the podium to the cheers of the students, loosened his necktie, threw off his coat and made his well-known black power gesture.

The speaker, nationally known Stokely Carmichael, chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, spoke to over a thousand people who jammed Tougaloo's Woodworth Chapel. Those people were not only Tougaloo students and faculty but they came from places such as Greenwood, Edwards, Carrollton, Lexington and other towns in Mississippi to hear the great advocate of black power give a four point speech about (1) definition, (2) the black heritage, (3) the Vietnamese War and (4) the present educational system that Negro students are presently encountering.

"The Honkies has been defining things for us too long," said Carmichael, "and it's now time for us to start defining things for ourselves." We must define ourselves and our culture. "There is not another language, and we tried German and Russian, that has the English equivalent to Negro. The closest we came to it was Noglo in Spanish meaning black."

Carmichael told the audience that they must be proud of their blackness, and as he told them "Your skin is black, your noses are broad your hair is kinky and you are beautiful baby, beautiful." The crowd went wild with enthusiasm. "The Bible said," quoted Carmichael, "that God's hair was like the wool of a lamb" and then with a short gesture he touched his Afro to imply the meaning.

Throughout the two hours the audience was intrigued and excited by the well delivered speech injected with constant gestures of black power which were, after a while, being imitated by almost all the black students.

"Perhaps the most exciting part of Carmichael's speech was that of the Vietnamese War. Cries of "Hell no, we ain't going" were heard throughout the Woodworth Chapel as he blasted the Negro's involvement in the War.

"That war," said the militant young leader, "is for the birds -- Lynda Bird, Lady Bird..." He went on to say that America is composed of 10% Negro and yet there are 23% Negroes fighting in Viet Nam. He also said it is better to serve five years in jail than to wake up every morning knowing you have murdered babies.

"Besides," he said, "No Vietnamese has ever called you Nigger."

Carmichael also attacked the present day educational system of black students. He told the students that the educational system is geared toward orientating them into a white society. "You learn nothing about the contributions Negroes have made to society. That is with the exception of two Negroes -- one, Booker T. Washington, who used his mouth for two things, eating and saying "yah'suh", and George Washington Carver who gave honkies something other than jelly sandwiches to eat."

He also commented slightly on the Brown-Tougaloo program saying that Tougaloo was once a black college where civil rights activities were high but now it's a Brown baby.

"We must know where we came from. In school we learn French, Russian, German; everything but what we should know. You should be taught Swahili - a language through which you can communicate with your black brothers without the honkies knowing what you're saying."

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## EDITORIAL — Frances M. Jones

This week has been quite an exciting week for Tougalooians; we had two national figures on our campus. Monday, Robert Kennedy, senator from New York visited our campus after a senate hearing in Jackson. Mr. Kennedy was received warmly by the Tougaloo audience, his speech, like most of the other speeches he delivered, was directed to the youth of tomorrow. His speech was uncontroversial and left much to be desired by the black students looking for the answer. You may have noticed that you could not pin him down on any one of his points.

I was appalled by many of the students here. It seems some of them went beserk over the New York senator. This fact can be explained, I think, because the students saw an image of Kennedy — the brother of the great president. As one of our fellow students said, "I don't believe that the students acted as they did because they really got something out of Kennedy's speech, but because he was in a sense a celebrity; I think they would act the same way if Roy Rogers' horse Trigger came on campus." Literally, the content of Kennedy's speech was scarce and left out any important things that could be related to us as black students.

"He is slated to be one of tomorrow's liberal leaders, the day for the conservatives," as one of our instructors said, "is fading." He, Kennedy, appeals to the heart of many a Negro but he still represents the white power structure, and when he says, "We must sacrifice," what will he sacrifice? I wonder?

Tuesday, April 11th, quite a different speaker set foot on campus and spoke to us. He was Stokely Carmichael, Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Where Kennedy is a liberal, Carmichael is very much a radical. His speech which lasted all of two hours left the crowd full of questions, glazy-eyed and wanting more. "I could have listened to him for hours," said one student. Carmichael is just that type of man, he is described as a very controversial speaker; he has a great sense of humor, he demands your attention and gets it, he thinks well on his feet and he leaves you crying for more. As he stood on the platform, his shirt soaking from perspiration and his black face shining to his audience, he was the most beautiful creature alive.

The same fellow student said of Carmichael's speech: "It was the truth, the students didn't yell and scream and get excited because he was a celebrity but because he was telling the truth brothers and sisters." Funny, many disagreed with him and more agreed with him, but they all got something from our soulful brother. It must be noted that Stokely Carmichael is not a celebrity but a common man working for the liberation of all black people although many of us see him in a different light, including myself.

It was noted by an observer that some of the same students that applauded so warmly for Bobby Kennedy also jumped and yelled for Stokely. As one student applauded for both said: "I applauded for Kennedy because it was natural and the thing that was expected of us, I yelled for Stokely because I couldn't help myself." But we must realize that there is no in between; you cannot believe half of what Carmichael says and then say you agree with Robert Kennedy. They are so genuinely different that one can readily see the difference.

We have discussed in most of our classes both speakers; it is interesting that one left the campus leaving the memory of a great man who took the time to come to Tougaloo and the other left campus as one of the greatest men who has ever spoken on campus. Stokely Carmichael is by all means a great (con. p 3)

(Editorial, con.t)

man - because he represents us - the black people of America.

As black Americans, now is the time to awaken and see that the need is for you - my black brothers and sisters to start working for the cause of all black oppressed people. Only we can do it. Don't stop here; the road is long and the cause is truly great!

**SHAME, BLACK BROTHERS, SHAME!!!**

**BLACK STUDENTS AWAKEN AND FACE THE CHALLENGE!!**

Marilyn Henry

We all listened to the speech given by the great Stokely Carmichael, but did we let his words penetrate into our minds with such depth that when the call for action now is heard, we will be ready and willing to answer?

We are concerned with all the issues brought up by Carnichael and we must carry them into effect. There is one that Tougaloo students can mobilize for right now! Our most apparent need is for a Black history course with a Black instructor.

Noticing the faces in the audience the other night, many of my black brothers went ape at the mention of the action and accomplishment of our soulful ancestors. Why? Simply because we had never heard them before. Shamo, black brothers, shamo!

The time has come for us to learn about ourselves and shun learning and being taught the rise of the white man's so called present day civilization.

To read the trash in our day it would soon so much of the unrest in the world today could have been avoided if the white man had not been born with the inclination to raise hell!

We should protest as blacks violently against such archaic hogwash being compulsory!

Brothers did you know that most of the anger being emitted by students at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee today is caused by frustration at seeing so many things they would like to have done blown up in their faces. Shano, black brothers, shano!

The problems we will face in getting our black history course will come from our lily white history department. Things are being done now for the accomplishment of our goal; but I must instill in your minds the need for your support. The cry is NOW, black brothers, NOW!

(con't from page 1)

Carnichael continued his criticism of the curriculum by saying "you go into your music class where you are taught Bach. They call it classical music; and when the teacher gets ready for you to study jazz she brings out Glenn Miller. What you need to hear is Aretha Franklin and Miles Davis; that's our culture."

When the speech ended Carnichael was given a standing ovation and applause that lasted about five minutes.

## BLACK CRISIS NEWSLETTER (Vol. 1, No. 1, April 1968)

BLACK STUDENTS IN NASHVILLE VICTIMS OF POLICE SET-UP

This past week-end black students from Fisk University, Meharry Medical College and Tennessee State College were forced to rebel against the brutal tactics of the Nashville Police force and white power structure of that city. The real story of what happened in Nashville has not been reported in the press instead the white newspapers, radio and television have obviously tried to lay the blame for the campus rebellion on the students and surrounding black community, by calling them "roving mobs," "guerilla forces," and constantly referring to the fact that bricks and bottles were thrown at white cops. BUT THE PRESS HAS NOT REPORTED THAT THESE STUDENTS WERE THE VICTIMS OF A CALCULATED SET-UP AND "FRAME-UP" WHICH WAS PLANNED AND BEGAN A FEW WEEKS AGO IN NASHVILLE RIGHT AFTER THE STUDENTS ACCOUNCED THAT STOKELY CARMICHAEL, SNCC CHAIRMAN, WAS GOING TO SPEAK ON THE BLACK COLLEGE CAMPUSES IN NASHVILLE. The white press and white groups in that area immediately stated that riots would break out if Carmichael came to their city, this prediction was publicized again and again. Reports indicate that the police department ordered special "riot equipment," prepared themselves for battle, and went on a "riot alert." The fact is that Stokely Carmichael went to Nashville, spoke to several student groups there, and then left for a speaking engagement in another city—with no trouble breaking out. But—the white powers—that be in Nashville could not let their prediction fail to materialize. After all, they had prepared for a so-called riot and had told everyone that there would be such a "riot." So they quickly went into action to create a situation which they knew would force the black students and citizens of Nashville to act and defend themselves. Then, they could call it a "riot" and put their gestapo-like tactics into action.

On Saturday, April 8th, a Fisk campus restaurant owner called white cops to arrest one black student, who he claimed was not welcome in his establishment. Because other students and onlookers felt that the arrest was unjust, they began to protest as the police dragged him away. At this point, the police called out the riot squad, which was fully prepared and waiting for such an excuse to move in and take control. As squads and squads of white police moved in, the crowd grew larger as everyone wondered what was happening and what had this student done to deserve such treatment. Police began to push and shove their way into the crowd, using billy-clubs against anyone who dared protest, which resulted in several onlookers retaliating by throwing rocks and bottles. This was the only means they had to defend themselves and register their indignation. The riot squad began shooting, they claimed they were shooting in the air, however, bullets ricocheted in the girls dormitories causing several girls to be wounded by this gun-fire. Police broke into the men's dormitories by breaking through windows. When students at nearby Tennessee State College demonstrated in a sympathy protest, more riot squads moved into the area, again claiming they were "shooting into the air"—however, two students were shot in the neck, several were wounded in the arms and legs. The riot squad then surrounded the entire black campus area and drove around with guns and riot equipment ready for use. Several homes and apartments were raided.

By Sunday evening, over 100 black students and citizens were arrested and in jail, over 50 people had been injured by police gun-fire and billy-clubs. Three SNCC workers who happened to be returning to Nashville from another city were stopped in their car and questioned by the riot-cops who had taken control of the entire area. When police spotted SNCC literature in the car, they ar-

rested two of the SNCC workers on charges of "Inciting to Riot" and they were placed under \$2,500 bond each. A third SNCC worker was charged with "Vagrancy" and taken to jail.

On Monday, April 10th, reports from Nashville indicate that the black section of Nashville is like an occupied concentration camp, 6 P.M. curfews have been imposed on the students, they are not allowed to leave the area, and other people are not allowed to enter. Tear gas has just been used against a group of 300 students who sought to assemble and protest.

The black people of Nashville are angry, they have seen what is "going down" in their city and they now know that riot squads are not only ready to move into the poorest black ghettos of America's cities, but are now moving against black students and colleges - as they did last week at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas, and as they did at South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, South Carolina a month ago.

It is now very dangerous to be a black intellectual in the United States. It is dangerous to think for yourself, and it is dangerous to protest the violence and humiliation which white cops have heaped on black communities in the past and are getting ready to heap on us in the coming months. We in SNCC fully expect the white press, politicians, and powers that be to blame SNCC and Stokely Carmichael for what is happening in Nashville. The black people in that city know better, and we hope that the rest of our black brothers and sisters throughout the country will also know better, that they will not believe the lies and tricks which the white press puts forth, that they will think for themselves, and come to realize that this same thing can, and probably will, happen to them - wherever they are - and whoever they are.

(This article comes from the SNCC office in Atlanta, dated April 10)

#### PROTEST AGAINST POLICE VIOLENCE -

Robert Miller

We, as black students in America must act to condemn such acts of violence by the police and support the actions of the Nashville students in their effort to make themselves heard. We must let those responsible know that when one black brother is hit, we all feel the blow.

It is time for us, the black students in White America, to realize that on any occasion where we attempt to protest or directly act against the injustices heaped upon us, there is going to be trouble. We inevitably meet up with billy-clubs, cattle prods, tear gas, and etc. It is my belief that blacks should be allowed to fight for what they think is worthy, to protest and state any opinions publically in any way they choose. They should be able to protest the brutal beating in Nashville of a black student.

After witnessing the merciless beating of a fellow student, the Nashville students were not allowed to peacefully protest this act of violence on the part of the Nashville city officials. As Stokely would say, "it should be crystal clear," that the same thing would happen on Tougaloo's campus if we - as black students - rose in protest of police violence. We must say to cops and to White America in general, "either you stop using violence, or it will be used against you. No longer will one black brother's beating go forgotten or unavenged."

WORLD'S BIGGEST POETRY CORNER  
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Noglected Voice

CHANSON Chanting softly, smoothly--intonso pain  
and the pleasing sound glides into the land unknown  
a stranger exploring--striking at them  
the other voices so soft, so smooth--intonso pain

SONG You bow before them--humble servant  
let not your pride decrease  
You wish, want, get--but then through sacrifice  
losing identity and meaning--a risk  
of your self--of your self--of your self

SONG. Doplory yourself--you, boggar  
Crawl and Cry and Sock and Find--you bog  
Thon no better than dust--you're walkod on  
Thoy deplore you--why not you yourself

SONG An unknown land--your voice with intonso pain  
It welcomes you, yet hating you  
It kisses you, never lingering kisses  
Kisses wiped away--never seen again  
Noglect soon ssarches you--tearing, tattorod  
Sincerity of your unknown...lacked  
Trust when created--a fake, destroyed  
They were never really your friend--you boggar  
They were never the twin to your voice  
Intonso pain--loud and clear  
and the intonso bouding fearful--we to seek no more  
Thou meeting must be not half way--no more  
Friend never--onony no noro.

SONG (Written by Lorraine Hanlin) I am not black  
I am not black, I am not black  
I am not black, I am not black  
The Hunkio

stringy  
hairy  
red neck

SONG (Written by Lorraine Hanlin) barbarian  
thief  
blue-eyed  
good for discriminating  
cowardly governor  
well-hiding behind a mask  
son-of-a-bitch  
that can kiss my ass  
big fat black ass  
--DeLois Crawford  
(With apologies to Kirk Hall, author of "Old  
Uncle Sam")

SONG (Written by Lorraine Hanlin) "Power" "Twist" "I can make you  
I can clear a beach or swimming pool without  
touching water. I can make a restaurant  
deserted in less than an hour.  
I can make property value drop by being in it  
seen in a realtor's tower.  
I alone can make the work of God have  
little or no meaning to many in  
Sunday morning prayer hour.  
I have Power,  
Black Power. --Don L. Lee

THE TOUGALOO NITTY GRITTY is the official newsletter of the Political Action Committee (P.A.C.). At its first publication, The Nitty Gritty was published by volunteer help with irregular publication. Now the Nitty Gritty, with Frances Jones serving as editor, will be published once a week. If you would like to be on the staff or submit an article, contact Frances Jones, Galloway Hall-Annox A Room 80. Articles must be submitted no later than Thursday of the week for desired publication.

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or  
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